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Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	King <b>KI 202</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Neely, Aaron Senior, Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 1, Box 880

CITY OR TOWN:

Auburn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

#6 - Honorable Floyd V. Hicks

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY:

King

CODE

033

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Comments _____

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Neely, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 1, Box 712

CITY OR TOWN:

Auburn

STATE:

Washington

CODE

53

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

King County Administration Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

5th &amp; James

CITY OR TOWN:

Seattle

STATE:

Washington

CODE

53

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal
 ☐ State
 ☐ County
 ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	King
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

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# 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Neely Mansion is a large, two story clapboard building square and simple in plan but adorned with a number of turned and sawn decorative details.

Window openings occur regularly on all sides; two appear on either side of the center doorways on the first and second floors and three, on each floor of remaining sides of the house. All windows are double hung and have an entablature and decorated surround. Sawn scrollwork is placed below each lintel when the inclusion does not interfere with porch roof lines.

A decorative corbel table separates the first and second stories and continues as frieze decoration on the front and side porches. The side porches run the length of the building and are decorated with turned spindles and posts and sawn brackets with turned knobs. The center porch continues up into a second floor balcony covered by a cable that projects into the pyramidal roof of the house. The interior of the boxed, pedimented cable cornice is filled with diamond pattern shingles and is penetrated by a central round window. The cornice detail of the center protico a boxed cornice with swag frieze detail separated by brackets - continues as the eave treatment for the body of the house.

The inside of the house is characterized by high ceilings and spacious rooms. On the lower floor is the kitchen, dining room, parlor, and master bedroom. The entire upstairs is reserved for more bedrooms. The lower five feet of the walls in the house are covered with maple paneling while the remaining portion of wall is white plaster. Lighting in the house was supplied by candles and oil chandeliers which were hung from the ceiling and could be raised and lowered by hand.

Over the years, some structural changes have occurred in the house. Before World War II electricity was added, and in 1948 it was resingled, a new foundation provided, and a concrete base added to the front porch.

Most changes in the appearance of the house have arisen through the deterioration of the original structure rather than through new construction. For example, when new, the house was painted white, although this can hardly be discerned now. The foundation has become uneven, and wood rot has infiltrated some portions of the house. Most of the rooms are unused by the tenants presently living in the house and are simply collecting dust and debris.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1894			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	Community
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The David Neely family was among the first to arrive in Washington's Green River Valley. After having made a hazardous overland journey from Tennessee in 1853, they crossed the Naches Pass and arrived at Porter's Prairie near Enumclaw in Washington territory. He settled in Kent and both he and his family both avoided being killed by Indians who attacked the area in 1855.</p> <p>David Neely's son Aaron moved to Auburn where he married; and his daughter Lenore, born early in 1879, became the first white child born in the area. Soon after her birth, Aaron moved to the present site of the Neely Mansion which he and a few workmen built in 1894.</p> <p>Many gala parties were held for friends and neighbors who would spend the night in the house during shopping excursions to Auburn. On those occasions, all of the doors on the lower floor would be opened and the dancing partners would swirl from room to room to the music provided by the local fiddlers.</p> <p>The Neely Mansion is significant as a piece of house architecture in that it demonstrates the effect of readily available manufactured wooden decorative components on a very basic plan. It is significant also as an indicator of growing affluence in family areas close to Seattle and as an important social center for the Green River Valley.</p>			

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bagley, Clarence B. History of King County, Washington. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1929.

Interviews with Mr. Aaron Neely, Jr.

Tacoma Sunday Ledger - News Tribune, October 23, 1955.

Seattle Times, Monday, August 11, 1958.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0				0			
NE	0			0				
SE	0			0				
SW	0			0				

LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
N47°	18'	06"	W122°	10'	27"
		3			36

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Robert E. Gaines

ORGANIZATION

Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce

DATE

February, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

24 B Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Auburn

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name

Charles H. Odegaard

Title

Director - Washington State  
Parks & Recreation Commission

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

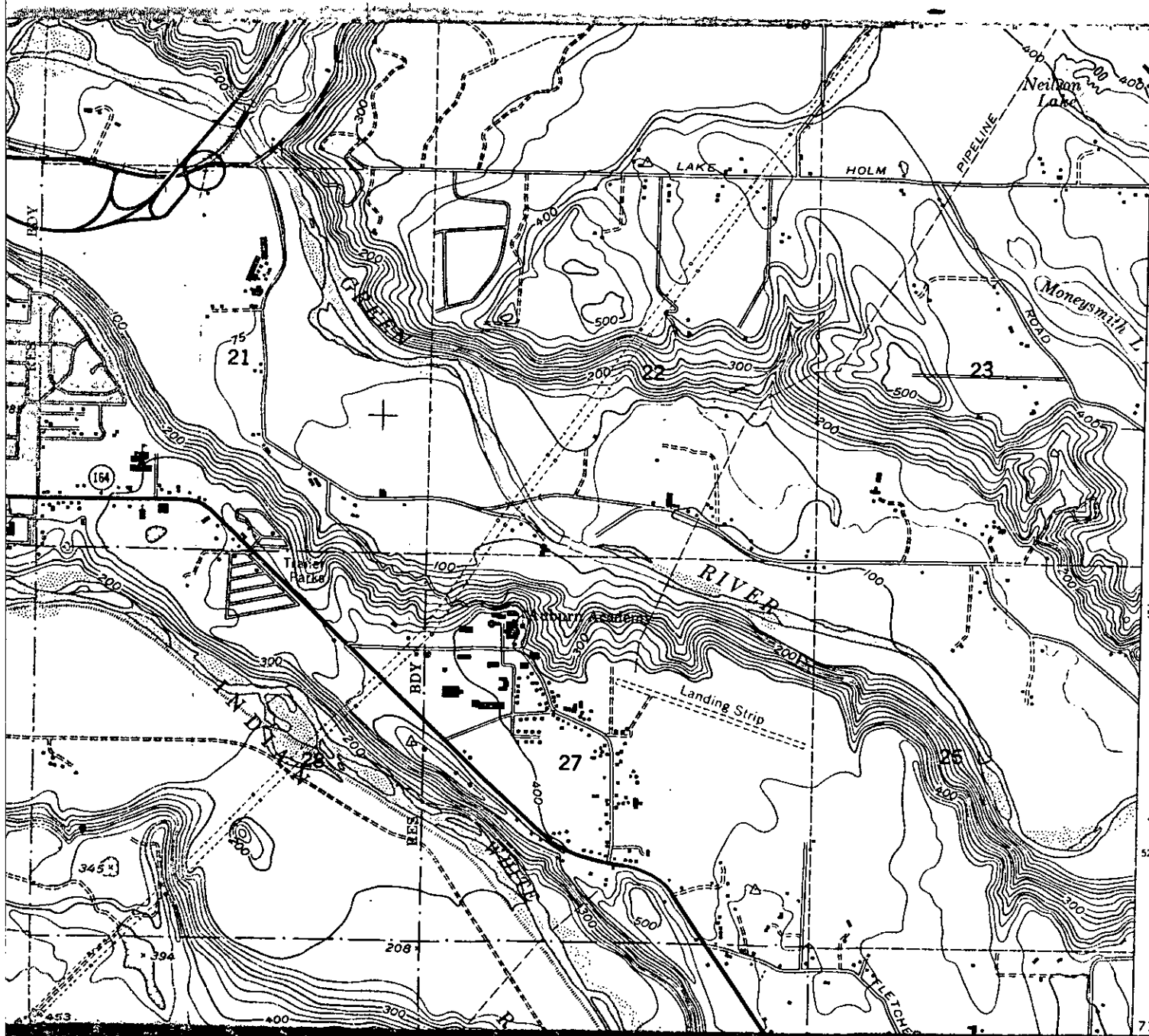
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

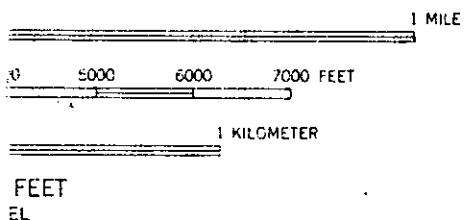
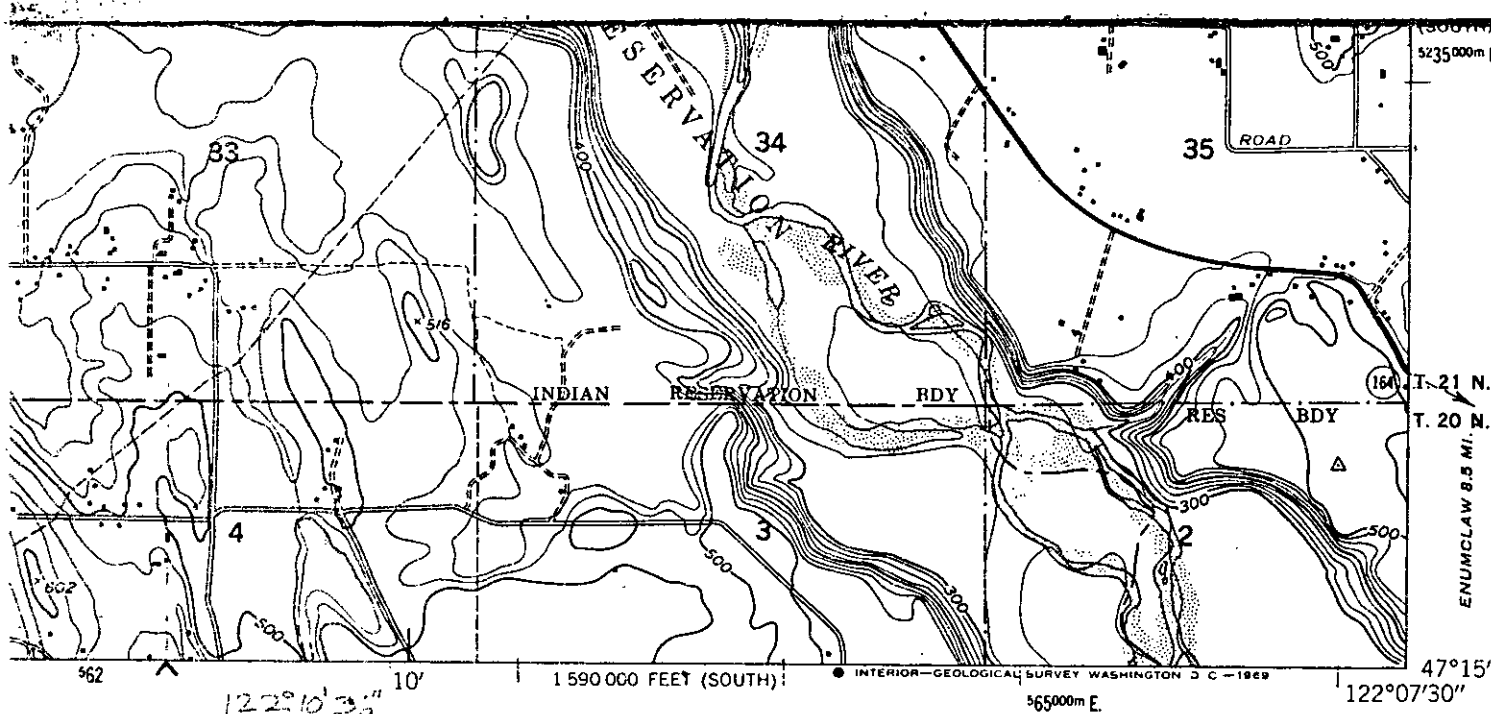
Date



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47° 18' 03"

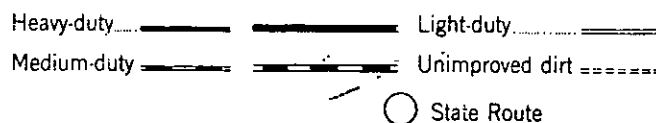
Auburn  
7.5 min.  
Photorevised 1968

710 000 FEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

# ROAD CLASSIFICATION



AUBURN, WASH.  
N4715-W12207.5/7.5

1949  
PHOTOREVISED 1968  
AMS 1578 I SW-SERIES V891

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
ADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
BOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY King	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Neely, Aaron Senior, Mansion			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1, Box 880			
CITY OR TOWN: Auburn			
STATE: Washington	CODE 53	COUNTY: King	CODE 033
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Ted L. Beach			
DATE OF PHOTO: December, 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: City Hall, City of Auburn, 20 "A" Street N.W., Auburn			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Looking N.E.			





Form No. 10-301a  
7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

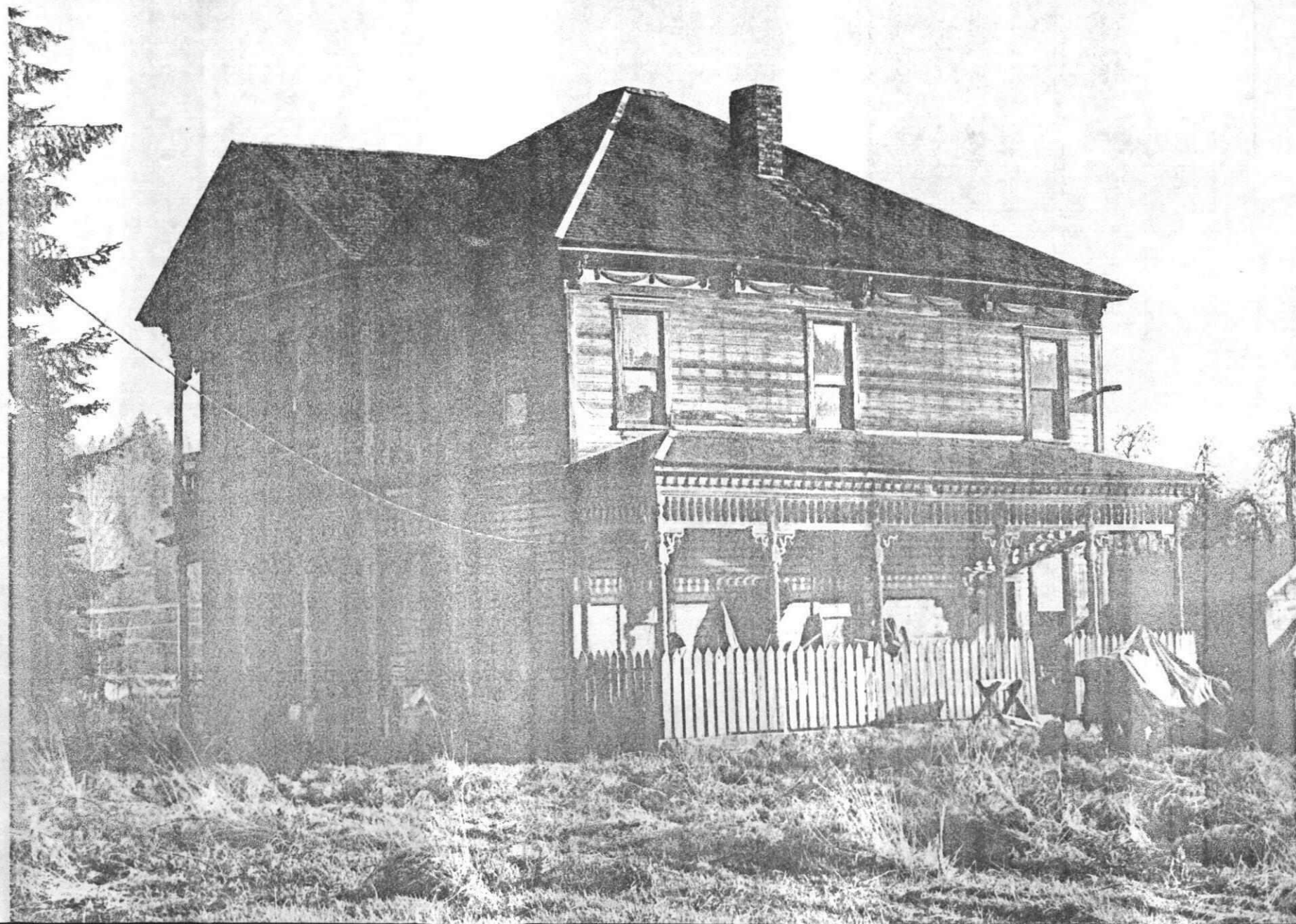
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Route 1, Box 880			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Auburn			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Washington	53	King	033
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
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City Hall, City of Auburn, 20 "A" Street N.W., Auburn			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Looking S.E.			



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NEGATIVE FILED AT:

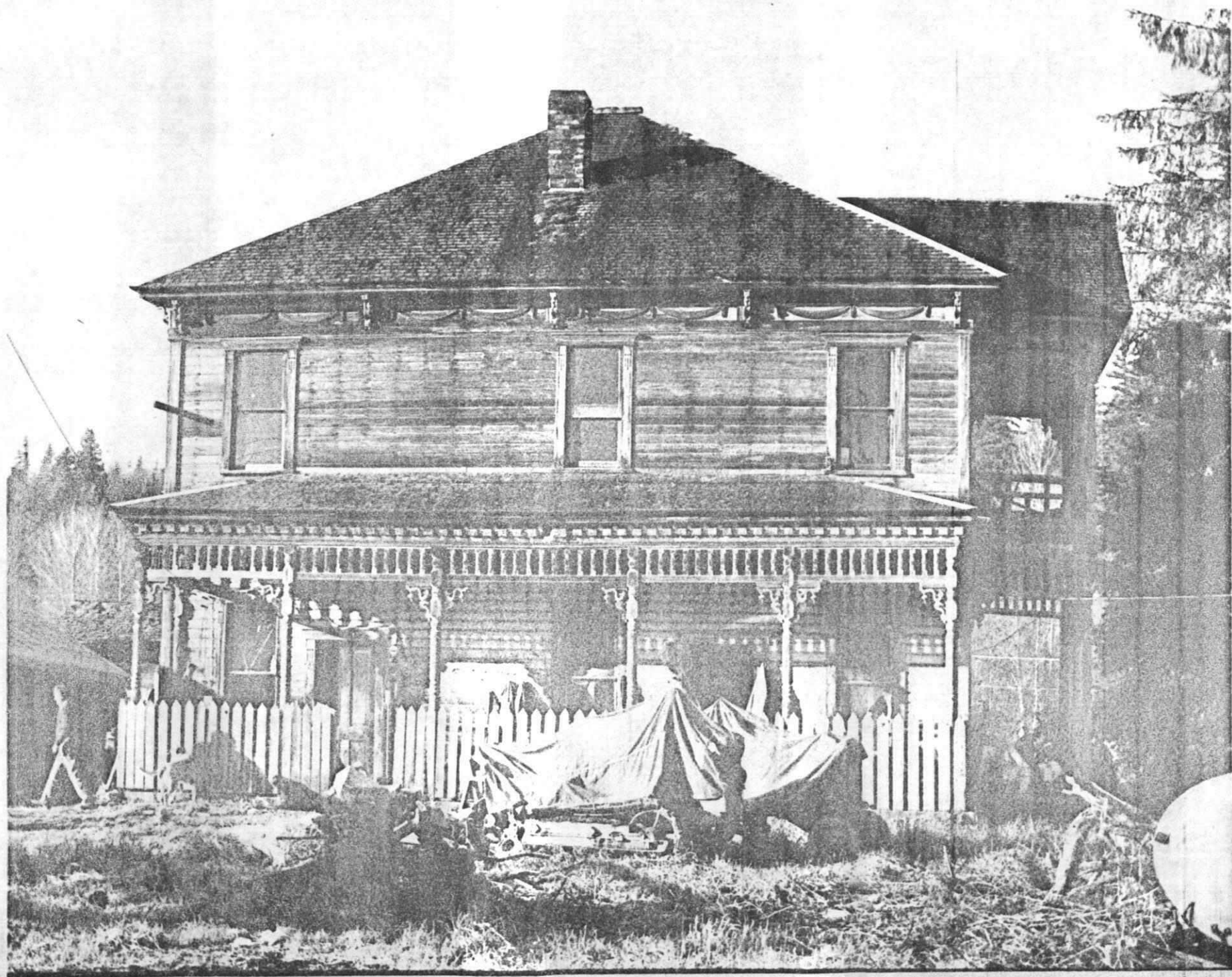
City Hall, City of Auburn, 20 "A" Street N.W., Auburn

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Looking East





## Mrs. Michael E. Dolan, First White Child Born in Auburn, to Note 82nd Birthday

The first white child born in Auburn will celebrate her 82nd birthday February 25, having lived all her life in the Green River Valley. She is Mrs. Michael E. Dolan, 23023 Russell Road.

Born Lenore Neely, in 1879, the third in the family of six children of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron S. Neely, she and her brother, still living near Auburn are the only children left. Two girls, Carrie and Ida and two boys, William and Julius are deceased.

Aaron Neely was born in Nashville, Tenn., and came with his father, David Neely and family to Missouri to pick up wagons they had ordered for the trek westward in 1851. Twenty-eight wagons made up the train which was divided and a toss of the coin decided which train was to go first. The Neely train went first.

It would travel for two days and then wait for the second train to catch up. This was done to lessen the danger of Indian attack.

When the first train reached Naches Pass, the wagons were disassembled and lowered piece by piece to the other side. The second train did not arrive as planned, so Neely and others in the first train retraced their route and found that members of the second train had been killed by Indians. They found one boy, about eight years of age, still alive under one of the wagons.

Relatives of the boy later were found in Oregon. Years later, the boy visited David Neely, and in 1958 the boy's aunt, who lives on Beacon Hill in Seattle, visited Mrs. Dolan.

In October of 1854, the Neely family reached the Green River near Kent and built a cabin.

The Neelys escaped the Indian massacre of 1856 because Mrs. Neely felt uneasy to be left alone with her children while her husband journeyed to Tumwater for flour, and asked to be taken to the blockhouse in Seattle. When Neely returned a hush seemed to lay over the Valley, and he felt something was wrong. Traveling at night by canoe, Neely managed to reach Seattle undetected where the fighting was going on. The mother and father of a family living across the river from the Neely cabin were killed, but the lives of their six children were spared because the Indians believed the oldest boy was possessed by the devil when the gun used to try and kill him failed to go off. An Indian, Old Tom, took these children, hidden under hides in the bottom of his canoe, to Seattle under a white flag of truce.

Three years later, according to Mrs. Dolan, Indians in war paint came to the Neely cabin while the father was gone. Mrs. Dolan's aunt, then a little girl, ran to meet them while her mother, frozen with fear stood in the cabin doorway. They picked her up, took her to the river and returned with baskets of clams and oysters from their canoes which they laid at the feet of the little girl, declaring that she was the spirit of the chief's dead child, with her dark hair and hazel eyes.



MRS. MICHAEL E. DOLAN

News-Journal Photo

Aaron S. Neely built his home between Auburn and Kent near the Green River bridge and it was here that Lenore was born. She and Michael Dolan grew up together on adjoining farms.

They were married in 1899 at the Indian Mission by Father DeDecker. Their first home was near the present fish hatchery on land they leased from the state. In 1906 the Dolans moved to her uncle's home on the Russell Rd., which burned in 1910, taking the life of their three-year-old son, Edward.

Other Dolan children include Phil, who lives near his mother, Mrs. Irene Carver of Seattle, and Margaret who is deceased. Mrs. Dolan's husband died three years ago.

Her present home was built on the site of the burned one in 1910, and is surrounded by a farm of 137 acres.

Mrs. Dolan was graduated with her brother, Julius, from Auburn High School in 1895 in a class of eight.

This charming little woman looks 15 years younger than her 82 years with very little grey in her brown hair. Until recently she was an avid gardener, and according to her friends is a very active person.